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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office in accordance with 37 CPP,\$ 1.6(d) on the date indicated.

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Inventors: Thomas Cech et al.

Filing Date: January 18, 2002

Serial No: 10/054,611

Docket: 015389-002970US; 018/182c

Title: METHODS FOR DETECTING NUCLEIC

ACIDS ENCODING HUMAN TELOMERASE

REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE

Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Malgorzata A. Walicka, Ph.D.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents Alexandria VA 22313

Dear Sir,

This paper is responsive to the most recent Office Action on the merits, dated January 5, 2004 (Paper No. 5), for which a response is due April 5, 2004. Accompanying this Response is a Request for a two month extension of time, setting the deadline to June 5, 2004. Accordingly, this paper is timely filed.

Applicants have given careful consideration to the analysis in the Office Action. Please enter the following amendments and remarks.

PATENT USSN 10/054,611 Docket 002970US; 018/182c

Pees Due

Enclosed with this Amendment is authorization to charge the Deposit Account for the new claims and the extension of time.

Should the Patent Office determine that a further extension of time or any other relief is required for further consideration of this application, applicants hereby petition for such relief, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and other fees due in connection with the filing of these papers to Deposit Account No. 07-1139, referencing the docket number indicated above.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michael Schiff Registration No. 40,253

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May 7, 2004